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trash, cotton processing byproducts, potato waste, citrus pulp, almond hulls, peanut hulls, bakery waste, wheat midds, and mixtures thereof and an amount of an organism that increases the feed efficiency of said animals, wherein said organism is selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus buchneri*, *Lactobacillus kefir*, *Lactobacillus parakefir* and *Lactobacillus parabuchneri*.

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Claim 14 (twice amended):

14. A solid feed comprising a solid feedstuff selected from the group consisting of forage, cereal grain, grasses, legumes, crop residues, corn, sorghum, wheat, rye, barley, oats, rice, cottonseed, gin trash, cotton processing byproducts, potato waste, citrus pulp, almond hulls, peanut hulls, bakery waste, wheat midds, and mixtures thereof and an amount of an organism, selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus buchneri*, *Lactobacillus kefir*, *Lactobacillus parakefir* and *Lactobacillus parabuchneri*, that increases animal feed efficiency.

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Claim 16 (twice amended):

16. The solid feed according to claim 14, wherein said solid feed comprises an amount of organism that provides between 10^5 and 10^{14} colony forming units (CFU) per head per day.

Claim 17 (twice amended):

17. The solid feed according to claim 14, wherein said solid feed comprises an amount of organism that provides between 10^9 and 10^{10} colony forming units (CFU) per head per day.

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Please add the following new claims:

23. A method of increasing the feed efficiency of animals comprising:

- a) administering, to said animals, multiple feedings of a solid feed comprising:
- i) forage, cereal grains, byproducts, or mixtures thereof; and
 - ii) an amount of an organism that increases the feed efficiency of said animals, wherein said organism is selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus buchneri*, *Lactobacillus kefir*, *Lactobacillus parakefir* and *Lactobacillus parabuchneri*, and wherein said amount of organism has been added to the solid feed.

24. The method according to claim 23, wherein said organism is *Lactobacillus buchneri*.

25. The method according to claim 23, wherein said animals are selected from the group consisting of pigs, poultry, and ruminants.

26. The method according to claim 25, wherein said animals are pigs.

27. The method according to claim 25, wherein said animals are poultry.

28. The method according to claim 25, wherein said animals are ruminants.

29. The method according to claim 28, wherein said ruminants are cattle.

30. The method according to claim 23, wherein the solid feed contains an amount of organism that provides between 10^5 and 10^{14} colony forming units (CFU) per animal per day.

31. The method according to claim 23, wherein the solid feed contains an amount of organism that provides between 10^9 and 10^{10} colony forming units (CFU) per animal per day.

32. The method according to claim 23, wherein said forage comprises grasses, legumes, or crop residue; said cereal grain is corn, sorghum, wheat, rye, barley, oats, or rice; said byproducts

are cottonseed, gin trash, cotton processing byproducts, potato waste, citrus pulp, almond hulls, peanut hulls, bakery waste, or wheat midds; or mixtures thereof.

33. The method according to claim 32, wherein said forage or cereal grain is whole, chopped, ground, ensiled, cracked, high moisture, or steam-flaked.

34. A method of increasing the feed efficiency of ruminants comprising:

- a) administering, to said ruminants, multiple feedings of a solid feed comprising:
 - i) forage, cereal grains, byproducts, or mixtures thereof; and
 - ii) an added amount of an organism that increases the feed efficiency of said animals that is selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus buchneri*, *Lactobacillus kefir*, *Lactobacillus parakefir* and *Lactobacillus parabuchneri*.

35. The method according to claim 34, wherein said organism is *Lactobacillus buchneri*.

36. The method according to claim 34, wherein said ruminants are cattle.

37. The method according to claim 34, wherein the solid feed contains an added amount of organism that provides between 10^5 and 10^{14} colony forming units (CFU) per animal per day.

38. The method according to claim 34, wherein the solid feed contains an added amount of organism that provides between 10^9 and 10^{10} colony forming units (CFU) per animal per day.

39. The method according to claim 34, wherein said forage comprises grasses, legumes, or crop residue; said cereal grain is corn, sorghum, wheat, rye, barley, oats, or rice; said byproducts are cottonseed, gin trash, cotton processing byproducts, potato waste, citrus pulp, almond hulls, peanut hulls, bakery waste, or wheat midds; or mixtures thereof.

40. The method according to claim 39, wherein said forage or cereal grain is whole, chopped, ground, ensiled, cracked, high moisture, or steam-flaked.

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41. A solid feed comprising forage, cereal grains, byproducts, or mixtures thereof to which has been added an amount of an organism that increases the feed efficiency of an animal and wherein the organism is selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus buchneri*, *Lactobacillus kefir*, *Lactobacillus parakefir* and *Lactobacillus parabuchneri*.

42. The composition according to claim 41, wherein said forage comprises grasses, legumes, or crop residue; said cereal grain is corn, sorghum, wheat, rye, barley, oats, or rice; said byproducts are cottonseed, gin trash, cotton processing byproducts, potato waste, citrus pulp, almond hulls, peanut hulls, bakery waste, or wheat midds; or mixtures thereof.

43. The composition according to claim 41, wherein an amount of organism that provides between 10^5 and 10^{14} colony forming units (CFU) per animal per day is added to the solid feed.

44. The composition according to claim 41, wherein an amount of organism that provides between 10^9 and 10^{10} colony forming units (CFU) per animal per day is added to the solid feed.

45. A method of making an enhanced animal food comprising adding to a solid food an amount of an organism that is selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus buchneri*, *Lactobacillus kefir*, *Lactobacillus parakefir* and *Lactobacillus parabuchneri* in an amount that increases the feed efficiency of said animals.

46. The method according to claim 45, wherein an amount of organism that provides between 10^5 and 10^{14} colony forming units (CFU) per animal per day is added to the solid feed.

47. The method according to claim 45, wherein an amount of organism that provides between 10^9 and 10^{10} colony forming units (CFU) per animal per day is added to the solid feed.

48. The composition according to claim 41, wherein said organism is *Lactobacillus buchneri*.